

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 1, 2 and 8; and amend Claims 3, 4 and 7 as follows.

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1.-2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) ~~The connecting structure according to claim 2,~~  
wherein A connecting structure comprising:

an air conditioning case of an air conditioning unit, which is mounted on a vehicle, forming an air outlet port through which air is discharged; and

an air duct for introducing the air from the air conditioning case to a passenger compartment of the vehicle, the air duct having a first end connecting to an air blowing port of an instrument panel of the vehicle and a second end connecting to the air outlet port of the air conditioning case; wherein

the second end of the air duct is engaged with the air conditioning case by mounting the instrument panel on the vehicle;

the air conditioning case has a guide portion on the periphery of the air outlet port for directing the second end of the air duct; and

the guide portion is tapered toward a front position of the vehicle.

4. (currently amended) The connecting structure according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 3, wherein the guide portion and the air conditioning case are integrally formed.

5. (original) The connecting structure according to claim 3, wherein the second end of the air duct has a flange portion for engaging with the guide portion.

6. (original) The connecting structure according to claim 5, wherein the flange portion is air-tightly received in the guide portion.

7. (currently amended) ~~The connecting structure according to claim 2,~~  
wherein A connecting structure comprising:

an air conditioning case of an air conditioning unit, which is mounted on a vehicle, forming an air outlet port through which air is discharged; and

an air duct for introducing the air from the air conditioning case to a passenger compartment of the vehicle, the air duct having a first end connecting to an air blowing port of an instrument panel of the vehicle and a second end connecting to the air outlet port of the air conditioning case; wherein

the second end of the air duct is engaged with the air conditioning case by mounting the instrument panel on the vehicle;

the air conditioning case has a guide portion on the periphery of the air outlet port for directing the second end of the air duct; and

the air conditioning case has a projection adjacent to the guide portion and the second end of the air duct has a U-shaped portion, wherein when the second end of the air duct engages with the guide portion, the U-shaped portion fits on the projection.

8. (cancelled)